NUMB. CLXXXVIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Lætus ſum Laudari a te Laudato viro. Tull.

Friday, October 5. 1711.

It is a very unhappy Man who ſets his Heart upon being admired by the Multitude, or affects a general and undiſtinguiſhing Applauſe among Men. What pi- call the Teſtimony of a good Conſcience, the Meaſure of our Ambition in this is to ſay, a Man of Spirit ſhould con- raiſe of the Ignorant, and like being ap- nothing but what he knows in his own deſerves. Beſides which, the Character on who commends you is to be conſider- you ſet a Value upon his Eſteem. The an ignorant Man is only Good-will, and ould receive his Kindneſs as he is a good our in Society, and not as a good Judge of ions in Point of Fame and Reputation. riſt ſaid very well of popular Praiſe and ions, *Give the Tinkers and Coblers their Pre- , and learn to live of your ſelf.* It is an Ar- of a looſe and ungoverned Mind, to be af- ith the promiſcuous Approbation of the y of Mankind; and a Man of Virtue too delicate for ſo coarſe an Appetite of Men of Honour ſhould endeavour only to the Worthy, and the Man of Merit ſhould to be tried only by his Peers. I thought it Sentiment which I heard Yeſterday uttered verſation, *I know*, ſaid a Gentleman, *a Way greater than any Man: If he has Worth in him rejoyce in his Superiority to me; and that Satis- a greater Act of the Soul in me, than any in which can poſſibly appear to me.* This Thought but from a candid and generous Approbation of ſuch Minds is what eſteemed true Praiſe. For with the com- of Men there is nothing commendable they themſelves may hope to be Partakers or arrive at; but the Motive truly glorious is, the Mind is ſet rather to do things laudable than to purchaſe Reputation. Where there is that Sincerity as the Foundation of a good Name, the kind Opinion of virtuous Men will be an unſought but a neceſſary Conſequence. The *Lacedemonians*, tho' a plain People, and no Pretenders to Politeneſs, had a certain Delicacy in their Senſe of Glory, and ſacrificed to the Muſes when they entered upon any great Enterprize. They would have the Commemoration of their Actions be tranſmitted by the pureſt and moſt untainted Memorialiſts. The Din which attends Victories and publick Triumphs, is by far leſs eligible, than the Recital of the Actions of great Men by honeſt and wiſe Hiſtorians. It is a frivolous Pleaſure to be the Admiration of gaping Crowds; but to have the Approbation of a good Man in the cool Reflections of his Cloſet, is a Gratification worthy an heroick Spirit. The Applauſe of the Crowd makes the Head giddy, but the Atteſtation of a reaſonable Man makes the Heart glad.

What makes the Love of popular or general Praiſe ſtill more ridiculous, is, that it is uſually given for Circumſtances which are foreign to the Perſons admired. Thus they are the ordinary Attendants on Power and Riches, which may be taken out of one Man's Hands and put into another's: The Application only, and not the Poſſeſſion, makes thoſe outward things honourable. The Vulgar and Men of Senſe agree in admiring Men for having what they themſelves would rather be poſſeſſed of; the wiſe Man applauds him whom he thinks moſt virtuous; the reſt of the World, him who is moſt wealthy.

When a Man is in this Way of Thinking, I do not know what can occur to one more monſtrous than to ſee Perſons of Ingenuity addreſs their Services and Performances to Men no Way addicted to liberal Arts: In theſe Caſes, the Praiſe on one Hand and

and the Patronage on the other, are equally the Objects of Ridicule. Dedications to ignorant Men, are as abſurd as any of the Speeches of *Bulfinch* in the Drol: Such an Addreſs one is apt to tranſlate into other Words; and when the different Parties are thoroughly conſidered, the Panegyrick generally implies no more than if the Author ſhould ſay to the Patron, My very good Lord, You and I can never underſtand one another, therefore I humbly deſire we may be intimate Friends for the future.

The Rich may as well aſk to borrow of the Poor, as the Man of Virtue or Merit hope for Addition to his Character from any but ſuch as himſelf. He that commends another, engages ſo much of his own Reputation as he gives to that Perſon commended; and he that has nothing laudable in himſelf, is not of Ability to be ſuch a Surety. The wiſe *Phocion* was ſo ſenſible how dangerous it was to be touched with what the Multitude approved, that upon a general Acclamation made when he was making an Oration, he turned to an intelligent Friend who ſtood near him, and aſked, in a ſurprized Manner, What Slip have I made?

I ſhall conclude this Paper with a Billet which has fallen into my Hands, and was written to a Lady from a Gentleman whom ſhe had highly commended. The Author of it had formerly been her Lover. When all Poſſibility of Commerce between them on the Subject of Love was cut off, ſhe ſpoke ſo handſomely of him, as to give Occaſion for this Letter.

Madam,

'I Should be inſenſible to a Stupidity, if I could 'forbear making you my Acknowledgments 'for your late Mention of me with ſo much Ap'plauſe. It is, I think, your Fate to give me new 'Sentiments; as you formerly inſpired me with 'the true Senſe of Love, ſo do you now with the 'true Senſe of Glory. As Deſire had the leaſt 'Part in the Paſſion I heretofore profeſſed towards 'you, ſo has Vanity no Share in the Glory to 'which you have now raiſed me. Innocence, 'Knowledge, Beauty, Virtue, Sincerity and Diſ'cretion, are the conſtant Ornaments of her who 'has ſaid this of me. Fame is a Babbler, but I 'have arrived at the higheſt Glory in this World, 'the Commendation of the moſt deſerving Per'ſon in it.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comediahs.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow, being the 6th of October, will be preſented a Comedy call'd the Chances, as it was alter'd by the late Duke of Buckingham. The Part of Don John by Mr. Wilks, Don Frederick by Mr. Mills, Antonio by Mr. Penkethman, Anthony by Mr. Norris, Conſtantia by Mrs. Oldfield, Landlady by Mrs. Willis. To which will be added a Farce of one Act only, call'd the Country Wake, (reviſ'd with Alterations.) The Part of Hob by Mr. Dogget, Sir Tho. Teſty by Mr. Bullock, Friendly by Mr. Pack, Flora by Mrs. Santlow, and all the other Parts to the beſt Advantage.

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